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*Matthias*  
*"Outline" Memo*

19 May 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Attached Paper

1. A while back someone (I forget who) asked informally if we would do an NIE on how the US should conduct itself in the Vietnamese situation. My first act was to explain that this sort of subject matter did not belong in an intelligence publication, let alone a National Intelligence Estimate. My second was to ask Willard Matthias if he would be interested in thinking about the problem and writing up something when he had the time. The attached is his essay -- strictly his own and strictly not an intelligence paper.

2. A few people in the ONE have read it --   Abbot, and self -- I don't think Willard intends to show it to anyone outside the Office except you. All of us who have read it think it is the sort of thing a DCI might find useful reading. We know you will find it interesting.

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3. I don't think anyone would recommend giving it circulation outside the Agency except, perhaps, single and wholly anonymous copy to Ghet Cooper, and to him only if you so authorize.

SHERMAN KENT  
Director  
National Estimates

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